

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

575 S. 10th Street, Lincoln NE 68508 402-441-6000

FOR RELEASE: July 24, 2020

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Arrests Made in Homicide near 23rd and A Street

The Lincoln Police Department is continuing the investigation into the shooting death that occurred on A Street, between South 17th Street and South 27th Street. The victim has been identified as 69-year-old Sharon Johnson of Lincoln.

Our staff has notified Sharon's family and we are keeping them in our thoughts as they grieve her death. We ask the public to respect their privacy at this time.

On July 23, 2020, at approximately 2:38 p.m., Lincoln police officers responded to the report of a shooting. Sharon was the sole passenger of a City of Lincoln bus that was traveling eastbound on A Street when she was shot. She was transported to a local hospital by Lincoln Fire and Rescue where she was pronounced deceased.

The investigation revealed that the bus was in motion on the city street when a bullet entered the driver's side of the bus, striking Sharon where she was seated. Using video evidence, investigators identified that the shot was fired from a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction of the bus. Investigators located the vehicle at the Kwik Shop at 2940 N 14th Street and contacted the occupants.

Based on digital and forensic evidence, as well as witness statements, 27-year-old Joel Jones, Jr. was arrested at approximately 5:36 p.m. for 2nd Degree Murder, Discharge a Firearm into a Vehicle, Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony, and Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Prohibited Person. When arrested, Jones, Jr. was in possession of a firearm that matches the caliber of the shell casing found at the scene.

Investigators also identified 19-year-old Jarell Wheeler as the driver of the vehicle and arrested him for Accessory to 2nd Degree Murder.

This investigation is ongoing and we encourage anyone with information relevant to this investigation to call 402-441-6000 or Crime Stoppers at 402-475-3600.

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